

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 24th June 1882.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.			
BENGALI.							
Monthly.							
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Calcutta ...	2,100	13th June 1882.			
Fortnightly.							
2	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong ...	600				
3	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto ...	.....			
Weekly.							
4	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta ...	700	19th	ditto.		
5	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto ...	.....	23rd	ditto.	
6	"Bangabāsi"	Ditto ...	.....	17th	ditto.	
7	"Bārtābaha"	Pubna ...	.....			
8	"Bhārat Bandhu"	Ditto ...	.....	20th	ditto.	
9	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensing ...	671				
10	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta ...	2,000				
11	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Burdwan ...	296	20th	ditto.		
12	"Chāruvārtā"	Sherepore, Mymensing	.....	12th	ditto.	
13	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca ...	350	18th	ditto.		
14	"Dūt"	Calcutta ...	.....			
15	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	745	23rd	ditto.		
16	"Gramvārtā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	.....	17th	ditto.	
17	"Halisahar Prakāshikā"	Calcutta ...	.....	17th	ditto.	
18	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	21st	ditto.		
19	"Medinī"	Midnapore ...	.....	19th	ditto.	
20	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore ...	487	16th	ditto.		
21	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Ditto ...	.....	16th	ditto.	
22	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta ...	850	19th	ditto.		
23	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet ...	.....	11th	ditto.	
24	"Pratikār"	Berhampore ...	275	16th	ditto.		
25	"Rajshahye Samvād"	Beauleah ...	.....			
26	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kakiniā, Rungpore ...	250	22nd	ditto.		
27	"Sādharani"	Chinsurah ...	500	18th	ditto.		
28	"Sahachar"	Calcutta ...	500	14th	ditto.		
29	"Som Prakāsh"	Changripottā, 24-Perghs.	.....	19th	ditto.	
30	"Sudhākar"	Mymensing ...	.....			
31	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta ...	4,000	17th	ditto.		
32	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet ...	440				
33	"Tripurā Vārtāvaha"	Commillah ...	.....			
Daily.							
34	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Calcutta ...	700	16th to 22nd June 1882.			
35	"Samvād Pūrnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	300	17th to 22nd ditto.			
36	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto ...	625	16th to 21st ditto.			
37	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā"	Ditto ...	500	17th to 22nd ditto.			
38	"Prabhāti"	Ditto ...	.....	19th and 20th and 24th June 1882.		
39	"Samāchār Sudhābarsan"	Ditto ...	.....			
ENGLISH AND URDU.							
Weekly.							
40	"Urdu Guide"	Ditto ...	365	17th June 1882.			

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
	HINDI.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
41	"Behár Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna ...	500	15th June 1882.
42	"Bhárat Mitra"	Calcutta ...	500	19th ditto.
43	"Sár Sudhánidhi"	Ditto ...	200	17th ditto.
44	"Uchit Baktá"	Ditto ...	.....
	PERSIAN.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
45	"Jám-Jahán-numá"	Ditto ...	250	16th ditto.
	URDU.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
46	"Akhbár-i-Darussaltanat"	Ditto ...	.....
	ASSAMESE.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>			
47	"Assam Vilásini"	Sibsagar ...	.....
	URIYA.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
48	"Utkal Dípiká"	Cuttack ...	200	10th ditto.
49	"Utkal Darpan"	Balasore ...	160	11th ditto.
50	"Balasore Samvad Váhika"	Ditto ...	125	
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>			
51	"Mayurbhunj Pákshik Pátriká"	Mayurbhunj ...	.....
	HINDI.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>			
52	"Kshatriya Patriká"	Patna ...	.....

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

SAHACHAR,
June 14th, 1882.

The Petroleum Bill.

WE extract the following observations from an article in the *Sahachar*, of the 14th June, headed "Lord Hartington's despotic action":—Lord Hartington is making a vast empire his plaything. He, it would seem, has an idea that India is inhabited by a race of savage *dhángars*, and that there is no difference between the Governor-General of India and a manager of his father's landed estates. As the manager may be directed to lower the rents payable by any tenant, so Lord Hartington, it would seem, may direct the Governor-General of India to make laws just as he pleases. But he forgets that the Governor-General of India is the chief of all Asiatic rulers, and that he rules over three hundred millions of men. Lord Salisbury did some despotic acts, but even he did not offer such an insult to the Supreme Government of India. We have from the beginning opposed the appointment of Lord Hartington to the India Office. However great may be his ability to handle European politics, of India he knows nothing. He has no sympathy with this country. Busy with English party politics, he has positively no leisure for making himself acquainted with the affairs of India. What is exceedingly to be regretted is that, with Lord Northbrook on the spot, Mr. Gladstone has made an inexperienced minister like Lord Hartington the real ruler of India. The present Secretary of State is unable to move outside the groove of English party politics, for the sake of which he has sacrificed two-and-a-half crores of Indian revenue. In spite of his professing to the contrary, both Europeans and natives in India are firmly convinced that had it not been for the Lancashire vote, that revenue would never have been abandoned. For the exigencies of party, certain merchants have been granted a monopoly of many articles which are most necessary to India. But that he would direct an amendment of the law for the benefit of certain American shippers of mineral oil was what we had never expected even of an illiberal person like Lord Hartington. What will come next? Perhaps a law would have to be passed for reducing railway fares, if Lord Hartington's servant had occasion for travelling in India. No other minister had ever before offered such an insult to the Indian Government. It behoves the public to protest against this action of the Secretary of State, and to endeavour to vindicate the injured dignity of the Government of India.

2. The same paper points out the desirability of supplying native editors with copies of the Weekly Report on Native Newspapers which is prepared by the Government Translator.

SAHACHAR.

Native editors should be supplied with Weekly Report on Native Papers.

3. The *Grámvártá Prákáshika*, of the 17th June, condemns the proposal to abolish the practice of imprisonment for debt. Under existing arrangements,

GRAMVARTÁ
PRÁKASHIKA,
June 17th, 1882.

the proposed measure, if adopted, will only hold out a premium to fraud. Until *benami* transactions become a thing of the past, imprisonment for debt cannot be abolished with safety.

4. The *Bangabási*, of the 17th June, directs the attention of Lord Ripon to the desirability of supplying native editors with copies of the Weekly Report on Vernacular Newspapers, which is drawn up by the Government Translator. In fact, in regard to the supply of official information generally, they should be placed on the same footing with European editors.

BANGABASI,
June 17th, 1882.

Native editors should be supplied with the Weekly Report on Native News-papers.

5. The *Dacca Prákásh*, of the 18th June, remarks that under British rule it is the powerful who thrive and lord it over the poor and weak. The laws help

DACCA PRÁKASH,
June 18th, 1882.

British rule in India.

them to do this. The zemindar, the mahajun, the police officer, the indigo planter, and occasionally Government itself, oppress the weak. Litigation is expensive.

SADHARANÍ,
June 18th, 1882.

6. The *Sádháraní*, of the 18th June, remarks with regret that while any vacancy in a Government office which does not carry a high salary with it is filled by a native, highly-paid appointments are seldom given to them, no matter whether or not they are qualified for the post in question. The writer points out the injustice that has been done to Baboo Rajendra Nath Mitra, late Assistant Secretary to the Bengal Government, and suggests that, in the event of the Chief Justice going on leave, Mr. Justice Mitter should be appointed to officiate for him, and that a competent native should be given the post hitherto held by Dr. Chandra in the Calcutta Medical College.

Natives in high offices under Government.

SOM PRAKÁSH,
June 19th, 1882.

7. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 19th June, dwells upon the frequent occurrence of accidents to passenger trains on the East Indian Railway, particularly on that portion of it which lies between Barh and Mungleserai, and attributes it to carelessness on the part of the Railway Engineer in charge.

Recurrence of accidents on the East Indian Railway.

SOM PRAKÁSH.

8. The same paper makes the following observations in reference to the Petroleum Bill:—The people of this country are steeped in ignorance. The great majority of them have begun to use inflammable oils without knowing anything about their properties: even the shop-keepers are not better informed in this respect. It therefore seems desirable that the importation of very inflammable oils should be stopped once for all. The shop-keepers also should be ordered to take measures for carefully storing such oils, and the sale of inkstand-like lamps, the use of which has become so general, should be at once prohibited by law. People possessed of ordinary means would not be able to continue the use of kerosine oil if they were required to burn it in costly lamps, whilst oil of superior quality, if imported, would, owing to its necessarily high price, find only a few customers. In any way, it is desirable to restrict the use of inflammable oils in this country.

The Petroleum Bill.

NAVAVIBHÁKAR,
June 19th, 1882.

9. The *Navavibhákár*, of the 19th June, remarks that it is not probable that a sufficiently large number of English-speaking natives will be found in every sub-division. But this circumstance will not stand in the way of the formation of efficient sub-divisional boards, because, in the absence of English-speaking members, competent and educated persons, though not acquainted with English, may be appointed to the Boards. Here it should be observed that the business of local boards should be conducted in vernacular in cases where the members do not understand English. This would not interfere with their efficiency. For the information of superior authorities, periodical reports might be drawn up in English.

Local Self-Government, Sub-divisional Boards.

NAVAVIBHÁKAR.

10. We extract the following observations from an article in the same paper, headed "Mineral oils; the meddlesomeness of the Secretary of State":—How despotic, meddlesome, and unmindful of his duty as a ruler the Secretary of State is, is clearly apparent from this act (the introduction of a new Petroleum Bill into the Indian Legislative Council for the benefit of certain American shippers of kerosine oil). It is the Government of India, and not he, with whom properly rests the question of deciding whether the consignments of mineral oil now on their way to this country should be allowed to be imported into India.

The Petroleum Bill and the Secretary of State.

at all. As it is, Lord Hartington has directed the amendment of the existing Petroleum Act, partly to benefit certain American merchants, and partly also to humour the American Government, and this he has done in utter disregard of the interests of the millions of Indian people. He has not himself considered the matter fairly, nor allowed the Government of India to do so. He has issued the edict from the India Office, and the Governor-General and the law member have set themselves to carry it out. By what an admirable process does the Secretary of State govern India from England! And how truly independent the Legislative Council is! It was but last year that the Petroleum Act was passed, and now the measure is to be amended, simply, it would seem, to make it possible for certain consignments of American oil to be sold in India. The amending Act, again, is to remain in force only till the 31st December: in other words, only for such time as may be necessary to dispose of the consignments referred to. Are these the equitable liberal principles of Lord Hartington? Is this his disinterested and impartial administrative policy? Are the Viceroy and the Legislative Council only instruments for promoting the self-interest of this vacillating ruler? What are the interests of American shippers of mineral oil to India? If those interests are at all to be taken into account, ought they not to be taken account in the proper and prescribed manner? Are laws to be made and unmade at the mere bidding of Lord Hartington, without paying any regard to their necessity?

11. The *Annanda Bazar Patrika*, of the 19th June, exhorts the people of India to shake off their lethargy, and work courageously to make Lord Ripon's boon of local self-government a success. Lord Ripon is conscientiously governing India, but the measures he has adopted for its benefit have made many powerful Englishmen, both in England and India, his enemies. Local self-government, however, is the most valuable privilege that he has conferred upon the people of India, and this has accordingly made him exceedingly unpopular with many European officials, who will attack him bitterly if the scheme fails. It therefore behoves the people of India to spare no efforts to make the scheme a success, because failure will bring discredit upon Lord Ripon's rule, and will make self-government for the natives of this country an impossibility.

ANNANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
June 19th, 1882.

12. The same paper condemns the invidious distinction which is made by Mr. Marsden, the Chief Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta, between native and European offenders. He is almost invariably lenient to the latter. But Mr. Marsden is not alone to be blamed in this matter. British administration in India recognizes this distinction, and Judges and Jurors alike are open to the charge of making this odious distinction.

ANNANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

13. The *Bhārat Bandhu*, of the 20th June, dwells on the propriety of supplying Native Editors with copies of the Weekly Report on vernacular newspapers.

BHARUT BANDHU,
June 20th, 1882.

14. The *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 17th June, remarks that it does not look well that the head of the Local Government, who has the power to confer titles of distinction by the hundred, should himself be plain Mr. Thompson. It therefore behoves Government to knight him without delay.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
June 17th, 1882.

15. A correspondent of the same paper deprecates the proposal to abolish the Barripore sub-division in the district of 24-Pergunnahs. If it is carried out, oppression will increase.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR.

PRABHATI,
June 19th, 1882.

16. The *Prabhāti*, of the 19th June, condemns the indifference of the municipal authorities of Calcutta to the sanitation of the native quarters of the city.

There is now a fearful outbreak of cholera in these quarters.

UCHIT BAKTA,
June 17th, 1882.

17. The *Uchit Baktá*, of the 17th June, dwells upon the necessity of repealing the License-tax—a most harassing impost, which brings but small revenue to

Government.

BHARAT MITRA,
June 15th, 1882.

18. In connection with the scheme of local self-government, the *Bhārat Mitra*, of the 15th June, suggests that the Government resolution on the subject

should be translated into the vernaculars of the country, and distributed among the people.

UTKAL DIPIKA,
June 10th, 1882.

19. The *Utkal Dipika*, of the 10th June, requests the local authorities to represent to Government the defects of

Cuttack khas mehal assessment, and suggests that unless a resettlement of the mehal is effected, the ryots cannot hope to receive the benefits of a fair assessment.

UTKAL DIPIKA.

20. The same journal, in an article on “the oppressions committed by the Cuttack Municipality,” says that the Commissioners have by beat of tom-tom announced to the public that no one residing

within the limits of the municipality can, under a penalty, build straw-thatched houses, nor can any person erect pucca buildings without permission. Such an order has exceedingly grieved the hearts of the inhabitants. It would have been a wise act if the Vice-Chairman had issued written orders, and had taken steps to explain the object of the order to the people. It is premature to issue such stringent orders, and there is no other means of getting redress than by referring the matter to Government.

UTKAL DARPANA,
June 11th, 1882.

21. The *Utkal Darpana*, of the 11th June, while dwelling at length on the insolvent state of Jhansi, requests Government to devise proper means for its benefit, and in this connection points out the necessity of keeping an eye on the people of Khoordah, who are quitting their homesteads for want of their ability to pay up the heavy rent imposed upon them.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 17th June 1882.